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PITTSBURGH AREA FATALITIES FROM INJURIES ON THE JOB, 2000

Thirty-two fatal injuries occurred at the workplace in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), not much different from the 34 fatalities on record in 1999, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that over one-third of the fatalities from work-related injuries in the MSA were the result of transportation incidents (11), which includes highway, non-highway, pedestrian, air, water and rail fatalities. Over half of the fatalities in the MSA resulted from contact with objects and equipment (7), which includes being struck by an object, falls (5), and exposure to harmful substances or environments (5) combined. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the Pittsburgh MSA by selected event, 1993-2000

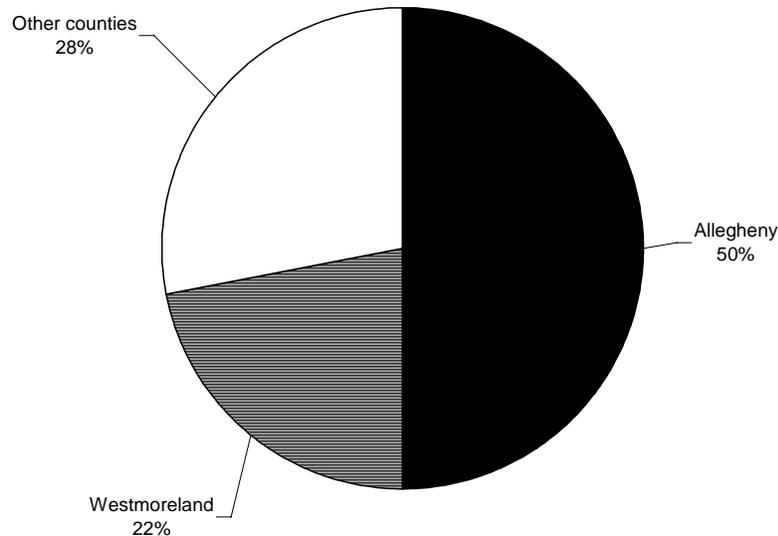
Year	Total fatalities	Transportation accidents		Contact with objects and equipment		Falls	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pittsburgh MSA							
1993	44	11	25	16	36	5	11
1994 ¹	148	113	76	11	7	12	8
1995	39	15	38	6	15	5	13
1996	49	22	45	8	16	9	18
1997	53	26	49	8	15	8	15
1998	38	9	24	8	21	5	13
1999	34	12	35	7	21	7	21
2000	32	11	34	7	22	5	16

¹ Total fatalities include a single, catastrophic airplane crash that claimed the lives of 101 persons in work status.

The Pittsburgh MSA consists of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. Sixteen of the MSA's work-related fatalities occurred in Allegheny County, which includes the city of Pittsburgh, seven in Westmoreland County, and nine in the remaining four counties. (See chart 1.)

Job-related deaths in Pennsylvania fell by 10 percent over the year to 199 in 2000, a decline of 22. As for the nation as a whole, highway crashes (41), continued to be the leading cause of workplace fatalities accounting for over one-fifth of the State total. (Nationally, nearly a quarter of all fatal work injuries were the result of highway crashes.) Falls to a lower level (27), struck by an object (24), non-highway incidents--those occurring on a farm or industrial premises, (23); and homicides (22) together made up almost half of the statewide fatalities.

Chart 1. Percent distribution of workplace fatalities in the Pittsburgh MSA by county of occurrence, 2000



Nationwide, the number of fatal work injuries was 5,915 in 2000, a decline of about 2 percent from the previous year despite an increase in employment. The leading major event was transportation incidents, which made up 43 percent of all work-related fatalities in the nation. Contact with objects and equipment (17 percent), assaults and violent acts (16 percent) and falls (12 percent) together accounted for 45 percent of the total. (See table B.) At a more detailed level, the number of job-related deaths from highway crashes declined for the first time since the fatality census was conducted in 1992. Fatal injuries resulting from electrocutions and being struck by an object were also down. Fatal job-related falls to lower level and homicides, on the other hand, both increased. On average, about 16 workers were fatally injured each day in the United States during 2000.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected major event, 1992-2000

Year	Total fatalities	Transportation accidents		Contact with objects and equipment		Assaults and violent acts		Falls	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	2,484	40	1,004	16	1,281	21	600	10
1993	6,331	2,501	40	1,045	17	1,329	21	618	10
1994	6,632	2,762	42	1,017	15	1,321	20	665	10
1995	6,275	2,587	41	916	15	1,280	20	651	10
1996	6,202	2,601	42	1,010	16	1,165	19	691	11
1997	6,238	2,605	42	1,035	17	1,111	18	716	11
1998	6,055	2,645	44	944	16	962	16	706	12
1999 ¹	6,054	2,618	43	1,030	17	909	15	721	12
2000	5,915	2,571	43	1,005	17	929	16	734	12

¹The BLS national news release issued August 17, 2000, reported a total of 6,023 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1999. Since then, an additional 31 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1999 to 6,054.

Highway crashes continued as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the nation during 2000, accounting for 23 percent of the deaths. Homicides and falls to lower level each made up 11 percent of national fatalities, and workers being struck by an object accounted for 10 percent of the total. Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm>. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Key elements of the results for the Pittsburgh MSA follow:

- Struck by object (5) and fall to lower level (5) were the leading major event in the Pittsburgh MSA accounting for almost one-third of all fatal workplace injuries. (See table 1.)
- Of those who were fatally injured in 2000, all were males and 91 percent were white.
- Workers aged 25-54--the prime working age group--experienced almost three-fourths of the fatalities in 2000. (See table 2.)
- Four industry divisions made up almost two-thirds of the on-the-job fatalities in the MSA-- construction, agriculture, forestry, and fishing, retail trade and services. (See table 3.)
- The major occupational group with the most workplace deaths was transportation and material moving operations (7). (See table 4.)
- Almost three-fourths of those killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Data presented in this release is from the 2000 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. All 50 States and the District of Columbia participate in the CFOI program. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event and is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on these deaths that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, State and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the Pittsburgh MSA by event or exposure, 2000

Event or exposure ¹	Pittsburgh MSA	
	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	32	100
Transportation incidents	11	34
Contact with objects and equipment	7	22
Struck by object.....	5	16
Falls	5	16
Fall to lower level.....	5	16
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	5	16

¹Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in the Pittsburgh MSA by selected demographic characteristics, 2000

Characteristic	Pittsburgh MSA	
	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	32	100
<u>Employee status</u>		
Wage and salary workers.....	23	72
Self-employed ¹	9	28
<u>Sex and age</u>		
Men	32	100
Both sexes:		
25 to 34 years.....	7	22
35 to 44 years.....	7	22
45 to 54 years.....	9	28
<u>Race</u>		
White	29	91

¹Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries in the Pittsburgh MSA by industry, 2000

Industry ¹	Pittsburgh MSA	
	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	32	100
Private sector:	28	88
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	5	16
Construction	6	19
Retail trade	5	16
Services	5	16

¹Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

NOTE: Government includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. (See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in the Pittsburgh MSA by occupation, 2000

Occupation ¹	Pittsburgh MSA	
	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	32	100
Service occupations	6	19
Farming, forestry, and fishing	6	19
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	13	41
Transportation and material moving operations	7	22

¹Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.